

Head Quarters Philadelphia
5th March 1782.

Sir Circular

The operations of next Campaign being contingent, depending in a great degree upon measures which are not within my controul, and very much upon the plans of the Enemy, and their efforts to carry them into execution — it is impossible for me, at this time, to say whether any or how many Militia the States in this part of the Continent may be called upon to furnish, for the purposes of the ensuing Campaign: but as I am persuaded myself it is the wish of every one of them to see vigorous offensive plan prosecuted, with a view of terminating the war honorably and speedily — it becomes my duty to inform, that the Continental ^(admitting the Battalions should be completed) Force, added by any Auxiliary Troops that I have any expectation of, is totally inadequate to the first and great Object which presents itself to our view: and therefore it may be essential to my future plans, that the Executive Powers of the States should be (if they are not so already) vested with sufficient Authority to

to call forth, properly equipped, such a Body of Militia as the exigencies of Service may require — the demand will not be made but in case of necessity, and will be postponed as long as possible; the consequences therefore of the want of such powers, or the delay occasioned by calling an Assembly on such an emergency, might prove fatal to our operations, and injurious to our Cause. —

I need not add how much it is my wish and desire, and how much the public interest will be promoted by it, that the Continental Regiments should be completed — every man, of which these are deficient, will add to the draught of Militia, and doubly to the public Expenses — while these Troops will not be so competent to the purposes for which they are wanted; to say nothing of the disadvantages which Agriculture and Manufactures will sustain, by having the Labourers and Artisans called off from their work. —

I would be ^{very} loath to suggest that the longer the Militia can be drawn out for, the more beneficial and less expensive will their services be; and that

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in case of a siege, they ought to be
engaged during the continuance of it,
or untill relieved by an equal number,
so that the operating strength may not
be diminished, at a critical moment,
when it may be most wanted.

I have the honor to be
With perfect respect & esteem
Yours Excellency's
Most Obedient servant,
G^d W. Shepherd

I duly recd your Excellency's
fav^r of the 5th Feb^y —

M^{rs} Excellency
Governor Clinton.

5th March 1782

Letter from Genl. Washington
for Reinforcements
Tulhu.